

Savana Tsosie

Experience

- Savania Tsosie, M.S.W., has been the Indian Child Welfare Specialist for Utah's Division of Child and Family Services since October 2001.
- Savania is a Navajo/Kiowa/Cheyenne Indian from Farmington, New Mexico. She is the oldest of 10 children. Her father and some brothers, sisters, nephews, and nieces still reside in Farmington. Savania left her home in Farmington at the age of 16 years old to attend high school in Utah. After graduating from Granger High School in Salt Lake City, she went on to college at Brigham Young University. She majored in Social Work and minored in Child Development. In 1980 she earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Brigham Young University, and in 1983 she earned a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Utah.
- Savania's work experience includes positions at Brigham Young University and Salt Lake Community College. She left Salt Lake Community College in 1996 to work for the Division of Child and Family Services. Her positions at Child and Family Services included working in the Child Protective Services area and later transferring to providing Family Preservation Services to American Indian children and their families.
- Savania feels very strongly that helping people is vital, especially when it comes to helping her Indian people. Her career and personal life have given her the opportunity to serve as a mentor, advisor, teacher, and leader to Indian people. She enjoys volunteering at any and all American Indian events. Savania said, "I will not hesitate to join in when invited to share a meal of mutton stew, fry bread, or Navajo taco (m-m-m-good)!"
- As a human being, person of color, and professional, Savania can empathize with the struggles, hardships, and life's stresses that face her people. Savania acknowledges that her life has been blessed by the Creator and feels a need to return those blessings to help her people. A way was opened up to give back to the American Indian community; it came in the form of being given the position to work as the State Indian Child Welfare Specialist. Savania states, "As an American Indian woman this is an honor and I thank those who have provided me with this opportunity to assist my people and the State of Utah." Aho (thank you).

Education

M.S.W., University of Utah

B.S., Brigham Young University